T/SOK/30/3/7

Freedom for India.

The Communal riots in Calcutta and Bombay, as a result of which Hundreds of Indians have been killed, are an expression of the Success of the Cabinet mission's success in implementing the classic imperialist Strategy of Divide and Rule.

The have ~~not~~ not relinquished power, ~~but~~ only passed responsibility for these outbreaks on to the Seedy interim Government.

See W.N.U. Jinnah Direct action

Only a few months ago, in an attempt to redress long-standing grievances, 20,000 Indian naval ratings in 12 Shore establishments in Bombay and 20 ships went on strike, removed the Union Jack and hoisted in its place the Congress, and Moslem League ~~and red~~ flags in its stead. In the town itself there followed Demonstrations with Congress, Moslem League and red flags. The demonstrators carried such Slogans as, "Hindus & Moslems Unite" and "Down with British Imperialism". Other Vessels were involved and the "Hindustan" of Karachi was involved in action.

(1)

The people of Bombay, Karachi and Madras, came out in support of the strikers. And when the British Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Godfrey, threatened to blow the Indian Navy to pieces, the Bombay people came out in the greatest Strike and Hartal ever seen. The ~~Brit~~ British Military Authorities answered ~~and~~ by Killing, in 3 Days, by indiscriminate firing, 250 People.

34
8
272

In the face of the rising national feeling of Unity in India, which has reached a new height and strength in the joining together in Battle of the armed forces and the Indian People, the British Govt, sensing the impending disaster for their rule in India, Sent a Cabinet mission to India.

It is noteworthy that the R.I.N Strike began on February 18th ~~1st~~ and Mr Attlee on Feb. 19th, announced the decision send the mission composed of Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Pethick Lawrence and A.V. Alexander. The purpose of the Mission, was Mr Attlee said, ~~was~~ "to promote, in conjunction with the leaders of Indian opinion, the early realization of full Self-Government in India".

The press at the time of the Missions departure tried to make it appear that the gesture was being made in a spirit of high purpose and out of altruistic motives. At the same time, they did not forget the time-honoured theme that, if the Indians did not grasp this benificent opportunity to gain their freedom, then they could only blame themselves and their eternal religious differences. Proffessor Laski even went as far as to say, in an interview published in the Indian Press on May 23, 1946, that "It is the Biggest abdication of Power in modern history in a non-violent way made by an Imperialist power to any people, and I hope Indian Nationalist Leaders will appreciate this offer made on a golden platter".

②

To Responsible Indian opinion at the time the "golden platter" must have appeared somewhat tarnished for they were not so enamoured of the Plan as Prof. Laski seems to have been. The All-India Committee, representing the main body of Indian opinion, declared the Cabinet Missions plan to be "not better than what Messrs Churchill and Amery were willing to concede in March 1942". Or again, "In the jungle of restrictions, reservations, Safeguards, and the balancing of one interest against the other, it is difficult to visualise a clear and complete picture of a free and independent India".

37
8
296

From The ~~plan itself is~~ Mission's proposals are clearly an attempt to adapt & maintain the present domination of India to the new historical conditions by the use of more subtle ~~methods~~ and complicated methods than the purely brute force of the past, but imperialist exploitation is to remain.

The interim Government which has been formed is only the Executive Council of the Viceroy ~~and will~~ and it will work under the 1935 Constitution. ~~and~~ ~~to~~ The Viceroy's Veto and over-riding powers ~~being~~ remain available in case of need.

(3)

For instance, if the Interim Government could be persuaded to decide to withdraw Indian troops, numbering 32,500 in all, from Malaya, ~~Burma~~, Indonesia and Burma, the Viceroy's Veto could be used to throw out the decision.

restrictions such - only tool in hands of Brit. Imp.

The Constitution-making Body to be set up under the Cabinet Mission's plan is called a "Constituent assembly". ~~But~~ That so called Constituent assembly has not to be elected on a democratic basis, But ~~of~~ indirectly elected from bodies which are based on a restricted electorate of 11 per cent. of the population. It has to be communally ~~elected~~ and divided into communal groups with numbers fixed beforehand. It is difficult to imagine a scheme more calculated to guarantee ~~the~~ communal antagonism.

34
8
296

Out of 389 seats the Princes come in for 93, or a quarter of the total. They are not elected and are well known to be British Stooges.

292

Neither will the Constituent Assembly be Sovereign. It will work under the Shadow of military occupation, and its scope in constitution making is limited and the final results of its work will be subject to British ratification, which will be dependent upon the fulfillment of conditions laid down by the British rulers.

282

4

The Cabinet mission's plan divides India ~~etc~~ into the following zones: (1) Hindu-majority zone (2) two Moslem majority zones (3) The Princes States.

This partition of India does not correspond to national groupings within India. The "Indian States," which cover up national, linguistic-cultural groupings, have no basis for separate existence.

This Partition is to be compulsory and independent, and in opposition ~~to~~ of the wishes of the people.

This is the case in the North-west frontier province where they have returned a congress majority opposed to compulsory group, but are, nevertheless, compelled to be included in North-western group.

On the basis of the above ~~groups~~ zones, the an All-India Union will be built. Its functions will be confined to defence, foreign policy and communications. Economic planning a social legislation are beyond the pale, thus making impossible any rational, over-all development of India's economy. Already capital is being attracted to the States, where ~~the~~ social and labour legislation is less advanced.

Such divisions and restrictions will prevent a strong united India from developing and there can be no doubt that British through their agents the princes, will play on the weaknesses and friction that will inevitably develop from these groupings

37
8
296

The Princes are destined to play a decisive part in the future of India if in the course of events the plan eventually goes into operation. The princes rule over one third of the territory of India and a quarter of its people. Under their rule democracy is unknown. The puppets dance at the end of strings held by the British Residents who are under the Political department of the Central Government of India.

296
296
296
272
1160
288
1448
288
1736

Recently the Rajah of Rewa was removed by the Indian Government because he had the

£. Sovereignty to issue an edict introducing Constitutional Government and parliamentary institutions.

No provision for democracy in the States are contained in the Plan. In fact, where before the Princes were subject to the Central Government of India, they ~~are~~ will in future ~~now~~ ~~[illegible]~~ be outwith the control of the proposed All-India Union unless an agreement as to their future relationship ~~has been~~ is agreed upon.

Recent events in Kashmir, the largest and probably the most ~~stat~~ strategically important of the States, show how important it is for Imperialism and the Princes to render each other mutual aid.

Sheikh Abdulla the leader of the Kashmir National Conference, was arrested for demanding democracy and launching a campaign against the Treaty of Amritsar. By this treaty the East India Company sold ~~the~~ Kashmir to the present ruling Dogra House for half a million pounds. Men, women and children were shot in the streets and Nehru, the Indian National ~~leader~~ intervened. He, too, was arrested. All this went on while negotiations were proceeding in Delhi to "free" the Indians.

Even if the forces of Independence overcame all the obstacles that the plan puts before them, Britain will have the last word. The Cabinet Mission's Statement of ~~the~~ May 25 laid it down that the cession of Sovereignty will be subject to two conditions. The first of these provisions is "Adequate provision for the protection of minorities". This condition makes for infinite intervention on the part of the British to influence ~~the~~ ~~[illegible]~~ the character of the Constitution.

36.
8
288

The Second, is "willingness to conclude a treaty with His Majesty's Government to cover matters arising out of the transfer of Power".

No official indication of the terms of ~~such~~ the treaty, but it will probably embrace the protection of British economic interests in India and also provisions for British-Indian military co-operation.

~~for British Indian military Co-operation.~~

If there are any who still think that the plan will mean complete Independence, perhaps the plans of the monopolists and militarist the military will help to show them that the opposite is the case.

In June, 1945, an agreement was reached between Birla Brothers Ltd, one of the largest Indian monopoly concerns, and the Nuffield Organisation in England for the manufacture of motor cars in India. The agreement is reported to provide for the setting-up of a joint company with 25-30 per cent of the shares in Nuffield's hands. The components of the cars are made in England and merely assembled in India. In December, 1945, a similar agreement was announced between the Tatas, the biggest monopoly concern in India, and Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest monopoly. Many similar deals are taking place and probably many more will.

6

In this way British monopoly Capitalism is extending its influence over Indian economy. Will this influence cease or be removed in the near future? "Capital", the organ of British finance in India, wrote explicitly on this question on November 15th 1945 " British business has no intention of being just run out of this country, either now or in the Hereafter."

288

~~While~~ General Auchinleck, the Commander-in-Chief in India, while saying nothing about the hereafter, has stated that he was "not prepared to set any time limit for Indianisation (of the "Indian" army); it may take ten years, twenty years or more." The British Air Ministry, in June this year, instructed Air Headquarters in India to prepare for accomodation in India of a strategic reserve from the United Kingdom, comprising eleven Squadrons (including four long range Bomber Squadrons) by the end of 1946 and eighteen Squadrons by 1950.

Such are the plans for Indian Independence. Mr
Bevin's "Cardinal principle", that while foreign military
troops are in occupation of a country there can be
no free negotiations with the representatives of that
country, has not been applied.

A nation that oppresses others cannot itself be free
and it is equally in the interests of the British people
as of the Indian people that India be free and
Independent. India will be free and Independent,
and it is for the British People to see that
the Labour Govt carries out its promise, lest the goodwill
and friendship of the Indian people is lost
in the process. The granting of Indian freedom
would end the suspicions other nations have about
our intentions. A great blow for world peace and International
Co-operation would be struck.

132
1736
1868
125
1993

For ~~this purpose~~ these Reasons the Government should take
immediate steps to make good the shortcomings
of the Cabinet ~~Mission's~~ Plan

The Government should issue a declaration
of recognition of Indian independence as the
point of departure in any negotiations with
regard to the transfer of power; Provide for
the democratic election of a Constituent Assembly,
By Universal Suffrage
on the basis of re-drawing the existing
provincial boundaries on linguistic-cultural lines
so as to allow for the exercise of the right
of national self-determination if desired in
any region; withdraw British troops and hand
over power to an Indian Government.

If this was done the Indian people would
soon overcome their internal difficulties
and march on to the high road of freedom
and Independence.

2m
9 2n
24 3

Recent History in India have been overshadowed by other world events. Attention has been Dramatically ~~centred~~ focussed ~~on~~ the Paris Conference and alternately on the progressive legislation being Passed by the Labour Govt and other important national issues.

Since the Labour Government, a few months after being voted into Power, sent the Cabinet mission to negotiate with Indian National leaders. Mr Attlee on the eve of the Departure of the three Cabinet ministers stated in Parliament on Feb 1946 that the missions job was "to promote, in conjunction with the leaders of Indian opinion, the early realisation of full Self-Government in India."

Professor Laski Added His Little Piece in more High-Falutin Language in an interview Published in the Indian Press on May 23rd 1946.

"It is the biggest abdication of power in modern History in a non-Violent way made by an imperialist Power to any people, and I hope Indian Nationalist leaders will appreciate this offer made on a golden platter."

The Press at the time of the missions departure, Particularly the Daily Herald, tried to make it appear that this gesture was being made in a spirit of High purpose and its motives ~~were~~ purely altruistic and if the Indians did not grasp this ~~oppor~~ offer of Freedom and Independence it would not be the fault of the British Govt, But the blame must be on the heads of the Indian leaders and their ~~eternal~~ Squabbles amongst themselves.

296
888
1160
2048

~~The British Cabinet sent the mission, not out of altruism~~

Sheer necessity, arising out of the mass action of the Indian People, ~~decided~~ sent the cabinet mission Hurrying to India and abdication of Imperialism and Independence for India was not ~~handed~~ in shed [illegible], The Plan was Rather an attempt, a last attempt perhaps, to affect a constitutional compromise, which, while retaining essentials of power and imperialist domination, would adapt itself to the new conditions and the rising demands of the Indian People.

Nor did responsible Indian opinion agree with the frothy deliberations of the British Press. The All-India Congress Committee, representing the main body of Indian opinion, declared the Cabinet Mission Plan to be "not much better than what Messrs Churchill and Amery were willing to concede in March 1942"

" In the jungle of restrictions, reservations, Safeguards, and the balancing of one interest against the other, it is difficult to visualise a clear and complete picture of a free and Independent India.

And P.C. Joshi, Secretary of the Indian Communist Party, has described the Plan as

" A British Imperial plan to preserve India as their greatest Colonial base...... A constitutional Plan that will accentuate Hindu-Moslem differences and enable their own Stooges, the Princes to play a Key Role..... a scheme to prevent a statute of Independence being Passed and to keep Indians Permanently Warring ~~amongst~~ among themselves.

It would seem that Professor Laski's Golden Platter is a little tarnished in the eyes of the most consistent fighters for Indian Independence.